

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Children's Center

University of Maine Departmental Records

---

9-10-2021

## Children's Center\_Updated COVID-19 Information

Kimberly Dodge-Cummings

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19\\_childcenter](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_childcenter)



Part of the [Early Childhood Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [History Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Center by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you all healthy and doing well.

Because COVID cases continue to be prevalent in our community, the Children's Center will be unable to extend programs' hours of operation until 5:30 p.m. Our hours of operation will continue to be 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. until further notice.

Per DHHS licensing, we will continue to follow the guidelines regarding illness in group child care settings. That includes guidance from the [federal](#) and [state](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I want to thank all of the families that have been impacted by the new rules — some of you multiple times. We will continue to ask that you receive confirmation that your child can attend group child care when presenting the following symptoms. We recognize that this is an inconvenience. Please be proactive and provide a doctor's note if you plan to leave your child with a runny nose and cough.

#### Guidelines for Children in Group Child Care Settings:

Minimize the risk of disease introduction or transmission by requiring every person entering the facility to be screened for any signs or symptoms of viral infection for as long as the pandemic is active. These signs and symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (body temperature above 100.4 degrees F)
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Congestion
- Runny nose (in conjunction with any other symptom)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Children who present with symptoms when entering the facility or during the day should be sent home immediately. Children who present with symptoms during the day should be isolated immediately and sent home with their caregiver immediately. (Child needs to be picked up within 30 minutes.)

Guidelines may change based on the level of community transmission.

If we encounter a close contact, the program will be closed and the children of that program considered close contact should quarantine for 10 days ( and be monitored for symptoms. The CDC recommends that close contacts be tested three to five days following exposure but the quarantine time remains the same regardless of a negative COVID test. [More CDC information is online](#). Children that are not present when the close contact takes place will be allowed to attend childcare.

To ensure the safety of all the children and staff, cleaning of the facilities will be performed in accordance with university and state guidelines. As per DHHS licensing, we follow the guidelines regarding illness in group child care settings, including guidance from the federal and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We ask all to remain vigilant and adhere to health and safety guidance, including wearing face coverings and maintaining good hand hygiene.

**Please be prepared to pick your children up early if we need to close because of staff shortage due to illness or we are alerted to a close contact situation. I know this is not ideal, so it is best if you have a plan in place for if a situation occurs.**

We will provide Children's Center-related health and safety updates as they become available

I hope you are all staying healthy!

Sincerely,

Kim